DISCOVER MCGILL 2019

Faculty of Science

Mary Gauthier

Student Adviser: Exchange and Visiting Students
Professor Bruce Lennox
Dean, Faculty of Science

HANDY TOOLS
The McGill E-Mail Account...

- Is the official email account that Faculty and Staff use to correspond with students
- Can still be your email address after you graduate
- Is configured as: firstname.lastname@mail.mcgill.ca
- Should be checked regularly for important information from the University
- Is the main source of contact between you and your advisor.
- Service Desk: 514-398-3398

myCourses

- Available on the McGill portal (My McGill)
- Course sections are automatically created for all courses offered at McGill.
- Students automatically have access to the courses in which they are formally enrolled.
- May include online discussion forums.
- Usually available starting first day of classes.
SOUSA: ADVISING

What is SOUSA?

- We provide Faculty level academic advising.
- I have been assigned as your SOUSA advisor.
- Main information and referral source for anything related to your academics.

www.mcgill.ca/science/student
What is Academic Advising?

- A collaborative relationship between a student and an academic advisor.
- We want to help you make the most of your time at McGill
- **SOUA**: The Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising
- Located in Dawson Hall fourth floor, Room 405

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/advising
What do Academic Advisors do?

- Discuss course selection
- course registration
- Deadlines
- credit load
- Research opportunities
- managing academic situations during difficult periods.
- Provide referrals to the many other offices dedicated to assisting students at McGill.

Your SOUSA TEAM!

- Nicole Allard (Director)
- Peter Barry (Chief Adviser)
- Vanessa Hansen (Academic Adviser)
- Paul Olioff (Academic Adviser)
- Curtis Sharman (Academic Adviser)
- Tania Raggo (Academic Adviser, BA & BSc degree)
- Jane Hawes (Student Adviser, Assistant to Director)
- Mary Gauthier (Student Adviser, Assistant to Chief)
- Ryan Bouma (Interdisciplinary Programs Advisor)
- Joan Kaylor (Administrative coordinator)
- Victor Chisholm (Student Affairs Administrator)

www.mcgill.ca/science/student
Your Science Wellness Advisor

Melissa Cobbler

Student Wellness Hub

www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub
Academic Advising

Advising Schedule: August 22nd to August 29th
We provide services all year. If you have not visited our office before, see our How to see your advisor go to Dawson Hall, Room 405 to get your drop in time.

Mary Gauthier (Study abroad and inter-faculty transfer adviser):
Thursday: 11:00 to 12:30 and 2:00 to 3:30
Friday: 10:00 to 12:30 and 2:00 to 3:30
Monday, August 26th: 10:00 to 12:30 and 2:00 to 3:30

www.mcgill.ca/science/student/advising

Science Orientation Booklet

2019-2020

Welcome to the Faculty of Science!

Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUA)
Dawson Hall, Room 405
853 Sherbrooke Street West – Montreal, QC – H3A 0G5
514-398-5442
www.mcgill.ca/science/student

Getting a good start in your first year as a Bachelor of Science Student

Welcome to McGill! The SOUA advising team would like to help you begin your McGill career successfully. We have prepared this pamphlet to help you organize your priorities as you begin your university studies. Use the “Important Dates” listing and the to-do lists that apply to you to plan your year so that you know what to do and when to do it. Read through the “Advising FAQs” to learn how to resolve common issues. Consult the “Other Resources” section to get an idea of all of the services that are available to you on campus.
Departmental Advising

- If you cannot get into a course, you must contact the departmental adviser in order to possibly receive course permit:

- Departmental advisers will assist you with your course selection, if you are not sure what courses/level you should be taking.
  - Difference between honours/major courses (eg. Math and Physics courses)

DEFINITIONS
Elective Course

- Exchange students are allowed to take courses in Arts or Science (provided your home university approves).

- Courses outside of Arts & Science are allowed but students should check with Mary Gauthier and make sure your home university approves of the course.

Course Change Period

- Period during which you may add or drop courses with no financial repercussions. These changes will not be reflected on your transcript.

- Deadline for fall courses: September 17, 2019
Course Withdrawal

- You may still “drop” a course after the course change period - there are two further deadlines:
  - Withdrawal with refund - September 24th
  - Withdrawal without refund - October 29th

- You will receive a grade of “W” for the course
- This is not calculated into your CGPA
- A “W” does not indicate anything bad!!! (provided there aren’t a billion of them...)

- Normally you cannot withdraw from a course after the final deadline, unless there are exceptional, documented reasons for the request.

POLICIES, RULES & INFORMATION
The S/U grading option

- “Satisfactory/unsatisfactory” is not allowed for exchange and visiting students.

What is a normal Course Load?

- Four to five courses or 12 to 15 credits per term. Exchange students must be full time.
  - Some universities allow student to only take 12 credits per term.
  - If in doubt, check with home university.

Final Exams

- The final exam schedule will be posted on Minerva in October

- DO NOT book travel before the exam schedule is released.

- “Vacation plans” do not constitute grounds for the deferral or re-scheduling of final exams

www.mcgill.ca/students/exams/
Deferring Final Exams

If you are unable to write a final exam due to illness or another serious reason:

- Apply online (MINERVA) for a deferral
- Must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Service Point, not the professor
- Assuming your request is approved, you will be permitted to write it during the next deferred exam period (Normally three months later)

www.mcgill.ca/students/exams/supdefer/

Deferring Midterms and assignments:

If, due to illness or another serious reason, you cannot write a midterm exam or test:

- Speak to Professor regarding options: It will be either a make-up exam or reweighting of course assignments, as indicated on syllabus.
- If reweighting, final exam cannot be made worth more than 75% of your final grade unless you so choose.
- Method of accommodation is decided by professor, and is non-negotiable.
- You must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Professor
Requesting extensions for assignments:

If, due to illness or another serious reason, you cannot submit an assignment on time:

- Ask professor for extension
- If approved extension goes beyond last day of class, you will receive a temporary grade of “K” (incomplete)
- You must provide documentation
- Decision is made by Professor

Doing extra work to raise your grade?

Unless otherwise indicated on the course syllabus, the professor is NOT allowed to give you extra work, not to let you rewrite or re-submit any assignments in order to raise your course grade.

There are no exceptions to this rule.
Are there any rules or procedures you haven’t mentioned?

• Probably….
• You must read the “University Regulations and General Information” and “About the Faculty of Science (Undergraduate)” sections of the online calendar in order to ensure that you are familiar with all of the regulations and procedures pertaining to your degree.

• Links to the relevant sections can be found in the Welcome to Science Booklet.

NIFTY THINGS IN SCIENCE
Learn about cutting-edge research over lunch with cool profs

September 9-13, 2019
11:30 AM
Redpath Museum

More information:
www.mcgill.ca/science
GENERAL ADVICE

Courses at McGill

► Course Syllabus

► Grades
  ► C or D grade

► Method of Evaluation

► 500 level courses
General Academic Advice

Students are sometimes surprised by how challenging the midterm exams can be.

- Keep up with the course work as much as possible; you will find that the independent studying required maybe quite different from your home university.

- Start studying early, as you may have many exams in a short time period.

- If you are having difficulty in a course, see the professor or teaching assistant early; don’t wait.

General Academic advice

“Everyone else seems to be managing fine, what’s wrong with me?”

- Advisors hear this fairly frequently

- So if you are having trouble managing, you are definitely not alone. Everyone else probably thinks you’re doing fine.....

- If you feel overwhelmed, tell someone.

  - Talk to your adviser, in SOUSA.
  - Talk to your professor or Teaching Assistant
  - Attend McGill workshops for time management, stress management and study skills
  - Individual and group counselling and tutoring services are also available
REGISTRATION ADVICE

► Register for both terms if on exchange for full year.
► If a course has a lab component, also register for a lab.
► If a required course for your program is full, keep trying for a couple of days. Attend course, but have a backup plan.
► If a course is “reserved closed” contact the department to hopefully get into course.
► If an elective course is full, try another course.
► Just because MINERVA lets you register does not automatically mean you will get credit for a course. If in doubt, ask adviser.

Dates and Deadlines

► Classes begin Tuesday September 3rd

► Course change period - ends September 17th. Deadline to drop courses, select s/u option.

► Withdrawal with refund deadline - September 24th. Deadline to web withdraw from a course with a refund.

► Withdrawal deadline - October 29th. Deadline to withdraw from a course with no refund.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“*The integrity of University academic life and of the degrees the University confers is dependent upon the honesty and soundness of the teacher-student learning relationship and, as well, of the evaluation process. Conduct by any member of the University community that adversely affects this relationship or this process must, therefore, be considered a serious offence.*”

(Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Ch.6, Section III Introduction; 2009)
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”.
— Senate resolution, January 29, 2003

www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Mandatory Academic Integrity online tutorial for all newly admitted students.

- **AAAA 100 Academic Integrity Tutorial**
  - *0 credits*
What if you encounter difficulties?

- See your SOUSA or Departmental Adviser if you:
  - Are having difficulty managing your time and meeting deadlines
  - Have fallen behind in your studies, and are feeling overwhelmed
  - Are not getting the grades you expected
  - Are unhappy with your course or program choice
  - Become ill, or experience difficulties in your personal life that are interfering with your academic performance
  - Are having Financial difficulties

Student Services

- Career Planning Services
- Counselling Services
- Office of Religious & Spiritual Life
- International Student’s Services
- Campus Life & Engagement
- Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Off Campus Housing
- Tutoring Services
- Dean of Students Office
- Scholarships and Student Aid
- First People’s House
- Office of Students with Disabilities
Mary Gauthier
Contact info

- Drop-hours posted at: www.mcgill.ca/science/student/advising
- Email: mary.gauthier@mcgill.ca
- Phone: 514-398-1368
- Location: Dawson Hall, Room 405